

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 9/19/18**

Florence, New Jersey  
September 19, 2018

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Ostrander at 8:00 PM. Boy Scout Andrew Ferdetta let the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 4, 2018. Notice was advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 10, 2018.

Present: Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Township Administrator, Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

- Eagle Scout Candidate Andrew Ferdetta – Project Proposal

Andrew approached Council to present his proposal. He introduced himself. He said he is a member of Troop 3 and a lifelong resident of Florence. He wanted to present his Eagle Scout Project proposal, called The Roebling Park Picnic Area. The goals of the project are to clean the Golden Jubilee Monument, including the path leading to it and to build a picnic area with three handicapped-accessible benches. The picnic area will be located near the monument. The dimensions of the picnic area would be 24' X 24'. The path leading to the entrance will be approximately 15' long. The tables will be 3' table tops with three seats. The ground under the picnic area will be dug 4" to 6" deep and will have concrete slabs. The slab sizes will be determined by the table assembly guides for each table. Belgium blocks will be used for a new path. They are about 3" to 5" thick. He provided a rendering of the picnic area and the current monument area. He plans to clean up the old path area. He wants to power wash it and improve the landscaping. He indicated where the new path would be installed.

He noted where the three tables would be located. He said that right now only two tables were available. He asked if he should shrink the picnic area for just two tables, or keep it the way it is currently presented. Council President Ostrander advised he should keep the plan the way it is.

He plans to clean and refurbish the benches that are currently there. They will be power washed and re-stained. He discussed the weeding and inquired about spray. Assistant Administrator Sahol indicated he would work with Andrew to get a contractor to spray the weeds. Because it is municipal property, there are certain rules to be followed.

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The new path to the picnic area will be belgium block, like the other path. It will be about 15' long and the sides will be constructed of 2" X 4" pressure treated wood. The blocks would be a weed barrier and the wood beams will keep the blocks in place.

He noted areas where the landscaping is overgrown. He plans to beautify it and trim the overgrowth. He provided a rendering of the tables. They are handicapped accessible with an empty area for a wheelchair. The table frames would be provided by the township. They will match the other tables at the park. They will be installed on 8' X 8' concrete slabs.

He said there were some items he would need the township to provide for him. He would need the two table kits. The Belgium blocks are being donated by Martin Eckert and bolts were offered by the township. He would like to borrow tools to use if there are any available. He would like the work area to be secured at night. He will be getting gloves, dust masks and safety goggles from his family. He is borrowing a generator from Richard Labaw. He listed other items that he needs for the project. He said he plans to fundraise for most of the items. He said if the township could provide any of it, he would gladly accept.

He asked if the township would be able to caution tape the area off during the project. Mr. Eckert previously reviewed it with him and said it would be possible, but he wanted to make sure. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the township would provide safety tape and the Public Works Department has some hammer-in stakes that he can use. It would be best that he use the material to secure the area since he might be working at times when the township employees are not. Andrew asked if the township would be able to provide a garbage can for debris, such as weeds, dirt, sticks and branches. He was told the township would. Andrew asked if railroad ties were appropriate for the picnic perimeter. Assistant Administrator Sahol said they would discuss that when the project was a little further underway. He thinks there might be something a little better suited for that.

Andrew asked if Council had any questions about the project. Council President Ostrander asked what the timeframe was. Andrew said he plans to begin the end of this month and complete it by the end of October, hopefully. Councilman Sandusky said that earlier Andrew said he was going to install three tables, but then he said there would be two. He asked how many there would be. Andrew said he is planning to install two. He was hoping the township would be willing to provide a third. Councilman Lovenduski said instead of using dirt between the blocks, he suggested polymetric sand. The material will lock tight and there won't be weeds growing through it. Andrew agreed to do that. Councilman Lovenduski suggested using 2" X 6"s. He also would like to see something there that mentions Paul and Loretta Varga. They maintained the monument for thirty years. They are not in good health and that is why the monument is in need of some attention. It was very dear to them. He requested it be mentioned somewhere. Andrew said he was planning to have a plaque in the picnic area so he could mention it there. Councilman Lovenduski said they were responsible for their being a water hook up there. Assistant Administrator Sahol said before that was installed, Mr. and Mrs. Varga ran hoses from their home to the monument to water the landscaping.

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Councilman Sandusky said he just spoke to his fellow Council members and they are in agreement to supply the third picnic table. Councilman Sandusky asked if he was going to have help with the project. Andrew said he does have help lined up. He is going to have his troop sign up and his family is going to help. He said any help from the township would be appreciated.

Mayor Wilkie asked the Scout Leader, Mr. Labaw, if there was anything he needed. Mr. Labaw said Andrew would just need the “go ahead” from the township. After that, the plan would be presented to the Troop Committee for its approval and then to the Scout Council for its approval. He would like to get started as soon as possible, even if all the signatures aren’t in place yet. Andrew has a time constraint because he turns eighteen at the end of December and has to earn the award before then. He thanked everyone for their time. Mayor Wilkie asked for Council to make a motion.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to authorize the project. All ayes.

### **MINUTES**

Lovenduski made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the following minutes. Voice vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

- Township Council Closed Session – September 5, 2018

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for August 2018, the Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for August 2018, the CFO’s Budget Report and Cash Report for August 2018 and the Tax Collector’s Tax and Water & Sewer Reports for August 2018. Voice vote – all ayes.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Baldorossi

Motion carried.

### **REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

### **APPLICATIONS**

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-212**  
**Approve Release of Maintenance Bond for**  
**Route 130 Sidewalk Improvements**  
**Seacoast Construction, Inc.**  
**15 Addington Court**  
**East Brunswick, NJ 08816**  
**Bond No. RCB0000852M**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-213**  
**Amend Resolution 2018-05**  
**Accounts Deposited at BB&T Bank to**  
**Include Florence Township Letter of Credit**  
**No. 1310003296485**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-214**  
**Authorize Approval of Renewal of**  
**Plenary Retail Consumption License for 2018-2019**  
**Fine Foods & Spirits**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-215**  
**Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of**  
**Florence Referring a Proposed Redevelopment Plan for Parcels**  
**Within the Route 130 Redevelopment Area to the**  
**Township of Florence Planning Board, and Directing the**  
**Planning Board to Take Certain Actions**  
**Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-7(e)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-216**  
**Resolution Updating Personnel Policies and Procedures**  
**for the Township of Florence**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-217**  
**A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property**  
**Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-218**  
**Resolution Providing for the Insertion of a Special**  
**Item of Revenue in the Budget of the Township of Florence,**  
**County of Burlington, Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87**  
**Chapter 159, P.L. 1948**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-219  
Approval to Submit a Grant Application and  
Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey  
Department of Transportation for the  
2019 Potts Mill Road II Improvement Project**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-220  
To Submit a Grant Application and  
Execute a Grant Contract with the  
New Jersey Department of Transportation for 2019  
Roebeling Station Safe Streets to Transit Improvement Project**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2018-221  
Requesting Approval of the Director of the Division of Local  
Government Services to Establish a Dedicated Trust by Rider for  
Municipally Sponsored Special Events Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:5-29**

Council President Ostrander said Resolution 2018-215 was going to be taken separately.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2018-212 through 2018-221, excluding Resolution No.2018-215.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

Administrator Brook explained that Resolution No. 2018-215 is a resolution that refers a redevelopment plan to the Planning Board. They will consider it next week. It involves the construction of a new second corporate office center for Burlington Stores. The township has been working with Burlington Stores to try and expedite their application. Their ultimate goal is to construct this building by late spring of next year. In doing so, this plan has gone through several different changes. It is a great opportunity for the township. It will be constructed by Route 130. The entrance in and out of the property will be solely on Route 130. There were two minor changes to the plan. They have already been incorporated into the copy that will go to the Planning Board. The first is that they were going to construct a 198,000 sq. ft. four-story office building with a four story, 144,000 sq. ft. wing and a 54,000 sq. ft. three story wing and associated site improvements. The planner took that from the resolution that was approved by the Planning Board. In essence, to be more comprehensive, it should read that they were granted approval to construct a new, 198,000 sq. ft. four-story office building comprised of a four story, 144,000 sq. ft. wing and a 54,000 sq. ft. three story wing and associated site improvements. It is not the three numbers all together, it is the main number and the breakdown of what comprised the 198,000 sq. ft. The second minor change was correcting a typing mistake related to one of the lot numbers. Other than that, the document is exactly as it has been submitted to Council. The changes have been incorporated into the plan. He

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asked that if the resolution is approved tonight, it would reference the two minor changes he indicated.

It was the Motion of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution 2018-215 with the two changes that were presented.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

### **ORDINANCES**

Council President Ostrander said the first ordinance, Ordinance No. 2018-21, is being held until October 17, 2018.

Administrator Brook explained that, as the public may be aware, the township has been working with the state regarding the intersections on Route 130. The state has authorized a grant of approximately \$9 million. The township is working with the state with respect to the properties that will be needed for the expansion and improvements of the intersection of Route 130 and Florence-Columbus Road. This bond ordinance does not give the township the right to go forward and acquire properties, it helps to begin to put the funding in place to do the appraisals, some of the necessary survey work and to begin contacting homeowners once there is a firm conceptual plan from the state. Representatives from the township and county are meeting with the state on Monday to see how far along the conceptual plan is. This ordinance is being held until October 17<sup>th</sup> because it has to go before the Local Finance Board prior to the adoption by Council. It is anticipated it will go before the Local Finance Board prior to then. If it does it can properly and formally be considered for adoption on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 2018-23 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING CHAPTER 134, SCHEDULE XV: BUS STOPS OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Mayor Wilkie explained this pertains to a bus stop that was located at the corner of Norman and Hornberger Avenues. People waiting for the bus were loitering on the porch of the residents. The property owners asked that the stop be moved. It will be in front of the now-closed deli further toward Route 130 on Hornberger Avenue.

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2018-23. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing. All ayes.

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It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-23.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-24**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
AMENDING CHAPTER 140 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE  
ENTITLED 'WATER AND SEWERS' TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL  
TYPES OF PIPING SUITABLE FOR WATER SERVICES AND MAINS  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained this ordinance will allow the municipality to utilize material that is plastic water main material, similar to what people use in their homes. It is much more durable than what the township has been using. It is also less expensive. The ordinance also allows contractors to use this type of material in the township.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to open the meeting to the public regarding Ordinance No. 2018-24. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing. All ayes.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-24.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

AYES: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

**ORDINANCE NO. 2018-25**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
CAPTAIN AND LIEUTENANT**

**2018 – 2020**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 10/3/18)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance No. 2018-25 and set the public hearing and adoption for October 3, 2018.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

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NOES: None  
ABSENT: Baldorossi

### **REPORTS**

#### **Committees, Boards and Officers:**

##### **Administration**

##### **Mayor**

Mayor Wilkie said Resolution 2018-221 establishes a Dedicated Rider for Municipal Sponsored Events. These events include the Carnival, the Patriotic Day Celebration and others. The township plans to organize a run with the Susan G. Komen Foundation in the beginning of May. There are donations received for these events. The township does not decide what the funds are used for; it is usually donated for specific things. Through the rider the township will be able to dedicate the donated funds to the specific accounts and the donor will be able to receive credit.

Resolution N0. 2018-220 is for a grant application for Roebling Station Safe Streets to Transit. On Cedar Lane and Railroad Avenue there are a number of large employers. The employees sometimes come to town by rail. Then they have to walk from the rail station. He is aware that there are some shuttles that run from the Florence Station. The township applied last year to install a sidewalk from the Florence Station. It was denied because the township does not own the property. The township decided to apply for sidewalks from the Roebling Station where the township owns property. The distance would be about the same for either project. This would allow for sidewalks and pathways on Railroad Avenue and other areas in Roebling where there are gaps.

Council received trash bids. There was only one bidder. It was from the current trash hauler. He said after reviewing what was submitted he would suggest a five-year contract and keeping the pick-up schedule as-is. There was conversation regarding having once a week pick up in the summer months but he doesn't think it is realistic and there is not that large of a savings. The pricing seems to be stable. He would like Council to consider his recommendation. If all were in agreement action could be taken at the October meeting.

He noted that at Roebling Arms the next day there was going to be a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. The facility was a concept created by former Mayor Bruce Benedetti to help the township meet its COAH obligation. Former Mayor George Sampson was instrumental in securing the funding for the project. Mayor Wilkie invited everyone to attend.

This Saturday is "Fall Day" in Florence, much like the previous weekend was. The Florence Legion will be holding a food truck event beginning at noon. In the evening the Roebling Museum will be hosting a screening of The Brooklyn Bridge. The director will be in attendance to narrate the screening. There is a reception prior to the screening.

Lennar, the developer of the townhouses on Florence-Columbus Road, is having an open house at noon. He heard unofficially that almost all of the units have sold. The following Saturday there is going to be a Pumpkin Festival at Investor's Bank from 1pm to 4pm.

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The ordinance regarding Florence-Columbus Road has been postponed. People have been asking him what is going to be happening. He said the project is being designed now. The county offered to pay and receive reimbursement from the state. If this was not done, the township would still be waiting for the state to take action and that could have taken a long time. The state is designing it and the county has made the financial commitment. Another facet is for the township to acquire the required properties. The county and the state could do that, but that would mean a long wait. It is easier for the local government to get involved. There is an understanding with the county that the donations they are receiving from developers for existing and future development and the township could reclaim a percentage share. There are schematics and different concepts of how the designs should be done at different locations. He noted some studies that had been released recently. The designs he has seen vary. One recommendation for Florence-Columbus Road from the Township Engineer is to make a turn onto Route 130 North behind the cemetery. It would keep those vehicles away from the traffic light. One lane would remain straight and then there would be left turn lanes to send traffic south. There is also discussion of making the southbound Route 130 turn lane for Florence-Columbus Road longer and possibly having another turn for north-bound Route 130 to Florence-Columbus Road before the light.

Right now, what is happening is the design work. It will take a couple years. The construction will take about eighteen months. The township had to use a broad brush regarding the properties in the bond ordinance. Everything that is possible needs to be included so it doesn't have to be modified later. The lots and blocks were provided by the state and the county as properties that may have to be acquired. The designs are still forthcoming so it is hard to say definitely what will be purchased.

Mayor Wilkie said there was going to be a closed session after the public meeting regarding a potential property. There will not be any action taken after the meeting.

### **Municipal Administrator**

Administrator Brook said very late this afternoon, the contractor working on Hornberger Avenue had a subcontractor doing some crack filling. This was done after the police were done for the day. The job was considered at that time done for the day. Through an absence of common sense and reasonableness, the subcontractor did not allow the tar in the cracks to properly cure. He allowed cars to drive through. When a car drives through, the tar gets all over the tires. He can't imagine why this happened. He spoke to a resident who was very upset, and she had every right to be upset. The workers were on their cellphones and weren't paying attention. Several people went through the area before the tar dried, and it got on all of their tires. It isn't just one tire; it clumps up on all of a vehicle's tires. When the car reaches thirty or thirty-five miles an hour it shakes. Assistant Administrator Sahol put a post on social media this evening. The township has spoken to four residents so far. He is sure there are more. The post instructs people to contact himself or Assistant Administrator Sahol directly. They will help residents. The subcontractor was very negligent. He does not know why they didn't wait for the police to be there to seal the cracks and have traffic control. The township will make sure anyone who has documented damage as a result of the tar is made whole. The municipality will go after the subcontractor and also the contractor to ensure the municipality is reimbursed for all costs that residents have to incur with respect to getting their tires

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replaced and balanced. Some people tried to get the tar off. That is not as simple as it may seem. The bottom line is that the people who drove in the area drove through it properly. The contractor failed to do his job responsibly. The township will make sure the residents are properly reimbursed for getting the tar off or getting tires replaced. He hopes some of the tar does not get onto the vehicles too deeply, or that would have to be removed also. It would be irresponsible on the township's part to leave residents hanging out there alone because of a contractor's failure. Everyone makes mistakes but irresponsibility is a different matter. He wanted everyone to be aware, and to direct people to contact himself or Assistant Administrator Sahol directly to help. It happened sometime between 3:30pm and 4:00pm. The police were off the job by 3:00pm. The contractor did the work after they left. The Police Captain did go to the scene around 4:00pm and it was beginning to properly set. He doesn't know what the contractor was thinking but he obviously was not using any form of common sense. Apparently, there were three workers there. They were not focused and they did not use a work ethic and the township will make sure anyone who sustained damage are made whole for any damage to their vehicle.

### **Assistant Municipal Administrator**

Assistant Administrator Sahol said tomorrow Hornberger Avenue is going to be paved. Mr. Barrett indicated they will work through the day tomorrow and it should be completed in advance of the event at the Roebling Arms building. Friday the expansion cracks will be cut and filled with the expansion material. Very early Saturday morning the line striping will be started of the roadway and the crosswalks. At that point everything will be completed in time for the event that evening at the Roebling Museum.

Regarding the 2018 Township Road Program, MECO Asphalt and their concrete subcontractor have been working diligently trying to repair and replace whatever is needed in the village. Then they will be moving to Alden Avenue and Wallace Avenue. Once that is done, they will pave those streets. He believes they may be mobilizing a paving crew to start the streets where the concrete was already completed. It should be somewhere around September 27<sup>th</sup>.

Crisdel Paving, on behalf of Public Service Electric & Gas, has done a massive amount of milling all around the community. They are wrapping up and are trying to be done by Friday. They anticipate starting to lay new asphalt beginning Monday. It is a benefit of a massive amount of paving that is a result of the township working so closely with PSE&G and their contractors.

He provided everyone one with a copy of the thank you card from Daniel Applegate for what was done for his birthday. He was very appreciative.

He also provided a memo. Over the past three weeks, he and Police Chief Brian Bolidzar have heard some concerns about speed on Railroad Avenue between Delaware Avenue and Cedar Lane. There were comments about comfort levels of driving and tailgating and things of that nature. Enforcement is key, and the police do the best that they can. Chief Bolidzar performed a speed study for the area. They looked at it in great detail and the average speed of drivers there is thirty-six miles and hour. The posted speed is forty by local ordinance. The lower average speed shows people's comfort level when driving on that roadway. There could be multiple reasons for that. He

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and Chief Boldizar discussed it, and given the fact that there is data in hand, and there are other streets in that area that are thirty-five miles an hour, the recommendation is to authorize the speed be reduced. It could be done at the first meeting in October and it would be a simple code change. It was the Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Lovenduski to reduce the speed on Railroad Avenue between Delaware Avenue and Cedar Lane to thirty-five miles an hour. All ayes.

Mayor Wilkie asked if Council was comfortable with the trash contract or did they want more time to review. Council was in agreement to accept Mayor Wilkie's recommendation to grant the contract. Mayor Wilkie said Council can then take action on this in October.

### **Old Business**

### **New Business**

### **Board of Health**

### **Public Comments: Open to the Public**

Council President Ostrander opened the meeting to the public.

Anthony Drangula, 2124 Route 130, thanked the mayor for his explanation of Ordinance No. 2018-21. He did a good job. He speculated that there will be more questions when the bond ordinance comes before Council. There is a lot of concern from the owners of properties in that area as to what is going to be happening. They don't necessarily oppose it, but they are concerned about property values and what exactly will be happening. He would like to make them aware of what was discussed. He said if more information becomes available, he would like the residents to be informed.

Mayor Wilkie said right now it is in the design phase, and by October, the township still won't know what the final designs are. He has two concept plans that are available for review. Mr. Drangula asked if there is no design for the next meeting, how can residents intelligently comment on the ordinance. Mayor Wilkie said he can't control the state and the county on designing it, the township is trying to put pieces in place so the project can be completed in the next couple of years, as opposed to ten years from now. The ordinance puts the funds in place to be able to do the work. The amount of the ordinance is a ball park estimate that was prepared by the attorneys as to what the cost would be to acquire the properties.

Mr. Drangula asked if the \$9 million that was mentioned is in addition to the \$3 million bond ordinance. Mayor Wilkie said the \$9 million is a grant the county received from the state as part of the Transportation Trust Fund. The county is also working with the Burlington County Bridge Commission, which is the Economic Development arm of the county, to move the project forward. The estimated cost of the project is about \$10 million, maybe more.

Administrator Brook explained the township approached the state and said the intersection is failing. If you really look at the traffic you can see just how much of the traffic tends to go left and

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head south on Route 130. The majority of it is not coming through the community. The state said there were funding restraints and could not say for certain when improvements would take place. The township is looking at development going on both here and in other communities in the area. The township worked with the county and again approached the state and offered to provide a general concept plan with improvements that would help the intersection. In addition, the township offered to work with the county. The county would begin to front some of the funding and there would then be reimbursement from the state. Even if Florence stopped development, the traffic issues would continue. It is happening already. The county and the freeholders said they were willing to work with the township to help front the money and the township provided a beginning design that would help lessen the burden on the intersection. The township also said it would work on acquiring the necessary properties. The state at that point committed \$9 million. It is not easy to receive that kind of funding from the state. The township had to help make up the difference. It offered to provide the funding to purchase the properties or easements or right-of-ways that are necessary. The township also wanted to participate in the reimbursement process. If under the timetable everything works out, within four years the construction would be complete. If not, it could have been at least ten years before the state would have even committed to it. There are issues to consider like sidewalks and constraints because of the cemetery and other issues. He is more than glad to work with Mr. Drangula as a representative of the property owners and he invited them to come and meet with him. The township cannot proceed with acquiring any properties until there is a plan in place. The township needs to be able to show residents what will be done, how the congestion will be dealt with and how the improvements would be done. Mayor Wilkie provided an outline but the township knew if the Mayor and Council did nothing the state would not make this a priority and the intersection would fail horribly.

Mr. Drangula asked when a concept plan from the state would be available. Administrator Brook said it is phenomenal for the state to say it will have plans in eighteen to twenty-four months. His goal is that there will be a concept plan in about six months. The township is cautious about sharing the current preliminary plans because they are not the final plans. The ultimate control of the design will rest with the state. The township has provided ideas and told the state the intersection is not just about the township, it is about the entire region.

Mr. Drangula asked about the traffic from the intersection that would be going straight on Delaware Avenue and turns onto Railroad Avenue. He asked what improvements were planned for that. Mayor Wilkie said that is not part of any of the discussions. Mayor Wilkie explained it is a county road and a designated truck route. The township cannot restrict the access. There is signage and he would hope it directs people to take Route 130 to Cedar Lane.

Administrator Brook said Mr. Drangula raises a very good point about trucks coming across and making the left onto Railroad Avenue. One of the reasons the signage was installed was because a majority of the time the trucks are the independent truckers that deal with Amazon. The issue is that Amazon had an address that was Cedar Lane. They would put it into the GPS and end up on Cedar Street by the middle school. It became overwhelming and the township worked with Amazon. They were told to get it under control or they could leave. Since the address has been changed to Independence Road there has been some improvement. The signage has helped. It was created to

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keep trucks from going past the point of Railroad Avenue. He believes the changes to the intersection will help with some of the truck traffic. The ultimate goal is to be able to remove the signs and not have trucks make the left there.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the township tracks the trucks and is working with the business. They check their paperwork to see how accurately it describes where the trucks are supposed to go. It getting very close to where it needs to be with the new address. They would like the trucks to take the whirlybird. The GPS systems don't take them that way. It takes them on the shortest route. When the address was changed there was an immediate drop in the number of trucks coming into town. The township does want the trucks to use Route 130 to the whirlybird and it is doing the best it can to make that happen. There is a new sign that is being installed to keep trucks from going into town. There are going to be lost trucks; but the township is doing everything it can to prevent it. He appreciates the public input and the information is taken directly to the company to make sure they counsel the drivers on the correct route to the site.

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, said since there is more warehousing being built in Burlington, the traffic is going to come up Route 130 and go out to Interstate 295. He asked how much Burlington was contributing to the improvements. Mayor Wilkie explained the county is negotiating with Burlington and requiring them to make a contribution. He doesn't know the specific amount.

Mr. Wainwright is concerned about the traffic before the improvements are made. He thinks the county did not look ahead when they were building roads. He thinks traffic from the turnpike should go to the back of his farm. It would keep them off the intersection.

Sophie Sklodowski, 2118 Route 130, Old Towne Gardens, said right now cars can't get in and out of the parking lots of the businesses on Route 130. She thinks what is being proposed is going to cause accidents with another road feeding onto Route 130 North. She would like to review the plan. She was told it would be available for review as soon as the township receives it. Mayor Wilkie said there should be no difference in the traffic because before the traffic would make a right at the light and now the traffic will be able to avoid the light. Ms. Sklodowski said she feels having the traffic come onto Route 130 closer to the businesses is going to be a problem.

Joe Comfort, 10 Ridgway Drive, asked what the plans are for Florence-Columbus Road. From Interstate 295 to Route 130 it is only two lanes. It is only crowded during the rush hours. He asked if the road was going to be widened. Mayor Wilkie said the state engineer is working on that design work. He has seen two different studies. One suggested dedicated right turns at Old York Road and Florence-Columbus Road so there would be more traffic flowing through. That would require some widening. At Route 130, to head north there would be a right turn before the cemetery. The jug handle that is there now would be widened. At the light there would be one lane straight into town and two left hand turns to go south on Route 130.

Mr. Comfort said those ideas won't slow down the trucks coming from Interstate 295. Mayor Wilkie agreed. Mr. Comfort said all of the roads in that area are two lanes. He is seeing a lot of

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dump trucks using the back roads. The roads are narrow. Mayor Wilkie said the trucks have always used those roads. The trucks are going to the farms that are in the area.

Mr. Wainwright said he was looking at some old deeds and there is a discrepancy about a power line from the 1930's. He noted that on another old map Florence-Columbus Road at that time was called the Florence-Jobstown Turnpike.

It was the Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. All ayes.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:25 PM MOTION of Lovenduski; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/aek